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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

15 JAN 1968

Between the Department of Defense  
(DOD) Manager for Manned Space  
Flight Support Operations and the  
Director, Manned Orbiting  
Laboratory Program

1. References:

Secretary of Defense Memorandum, subject: "Assignment of Responsibilities of the Department of Defense Manager for Manned Space Flight Support Operations," dated 8 September 1964; and Secretary of the Air Force Order No. 117.4, dated 25 August 1965.

2. Purpose:

To identify management responsibilities and organizational interfaces and to delineate the support which will be provided by the DOD Manager to the MOL Program.

3. Organizational Interface:

The primary organization interfaces are between the MOL Systems Office, Los Angeles AF Station, and the joint staff organization (DDMS) of the DOD Manager at Patrick AFB and the Commander, Air Force Western Test Range, Vandenberg AFB. The DOD Manager will designate the Commander, AFWTR, as the Deputy DOD Manager for MOL.

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4. Responsibilities:

a. The DOD Manager will provide support as follows:

(1) Recovery of the MOL astronauts and the GEMINI B in all areas specified in the MOL Manned Recovery Requirements Document and the GEMINI B Recovery Requirements Document. The DOD Manager will prepare a MOL Recovery Support Plan in response to those documents for the approval of the Director, MOL.

(2) Launch operational support at the Air Force Western Test Range (AFWTR) in compliance with the MOL Program Requirements Document. This support will be integrated into the overall DOD support plans.

(3) Orbital network support (tracking and communications) as requested by the Air Force Satellite Control Force (AFSCF). The orbital network will be defined in the MOL Orbital Requirements Document and will be the primary responsibility of the AFSCF. DOD and/or NASA resources outside AFSCF capabilities as required will be provided by the DOD Manager.

(4) Recovery communications as identified in the MOL Manned Recovery Requirements Document and the MOL Recovery Support Plan.

(5) Bioastronautic support in compliance with the MOL Manned Recovery Requirements Document. This will include partial and/or full ground medical support in all geographical locations.

(6) Meteorological support as identified in appropriate MOL requirements documents. Such support will be primarily that necessary to support recovery operations.

(7) Public affairs and information support in compliance with appropriate Public Information Annexes of the various MOL requirements documents. The Director, MOL, is responsible for securing DOD approval of these Public Information Annexes.

(8) General support in such special areas as photography of recovery operations and transportation of recovered astronauts and GEMINI vehicles in compliance with appropriate MOL requirements documents.

b. The DOD Manager is not responsible for initiating any associated MOL development, programming or budgeting for resources, the direct involvement in or assuming of any MOL Program responsibility for mission experiments, objectives, or mission success.

c. The Director, MOL, will:

(1) Prepare the MOL Program Requirements Document, the MOL Manned Recovery Requirements Document, and the GEMINI B Recovery Requirements Document.

(2) Approve the DOD Manager's Support Plans.

(3) Provide appropriate control center facilities for the DOD Manager and his staff at the Satellite Test Center in Sunnyvale.

(4) Provide the DOD Manager estimates of splash-down coordinates for recovery operations.

5. Command and Control Relationships:

a. During pre- and between-mission periods, the DOD Manager will be responsible for conducting the necessary planning, preparations, and coordination to meet MOL Program requirements levied upon him, and for reviewing all plans for subordinate DOD Manager task-group operations.

b. During mission periods, the DOD Manager, under the MOL Mission Director (to be designated by the Director, MOL), assumes operational control of those DOD resources committed by the DOD Manager to fulfill the responsibilities cited in paragraph 4. Mission periods extend from 24 hours prior to launch through recovery operations.

6. Direct Communications:

Direct communications between the MOL Systems Office, the DDMS, and the Commander, AFWTR, are authorized and encouraged. At a mutually-agreed upon future date, a resident representative of the DOD Manager will be stationed with the MOL Systems Office in Los Angeles to facilitate planning and preparation for MOL missions.

  
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